

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051222

TOSEC-091

FOLLOWING REPEAT JIDDA 1575 ACTION SECSTATE INFO

ANKARA ATHENS NICOSIA DTD 05 MAR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1575

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, TU

SUBJECT: TURKEY AND THE U.S. CONGRESS

1. PRINCE SULTAN, SAUDI MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION, RAISED WITH AMBASSADOR MARCH 3 THE CONGRESSIONAL DECISION TO CUT OFF U.S. MILITARY AID TO TURKEY. THE PRINCE SAID THE SAG WAS FOLLOWING THE DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY BOTH BECAUSE OF THE INTEREST IN THE CYPRUS AFFAIR AND BECAUSE SAUDI ARABIA DID NOT WISH TO SEE THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE WEAKENED BY HAVING THE U.S. BASES IN TURKEY SHUT DOWN.

2. SULTAN SAID THAT THE REACTION OF THE TURKS
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WAS UNDERSTANDABLE. THE U.S. CONGRESS, CONSISTING

PRESUMABLY OF MATURE PEOPLE VERSED, IF NOT IN
WORLD POLITICS, THEN AT LEAST IN HUMAN PSYCHOLOGY,
SHOULD HAVE FORESEEN THE REACTION OF A PROUD
PEOPLE TO "INORDINATE PRESSURE." HE SAID "WE
WOULD ACT THE SAME WAY."

3. PRINCE SULTAN SAID THAT WHILE NO ONE ASKED
SAG FOR ITS VOTE ON THE MATTER, "WE FIND DR.
KISSINGER'S STAND 100 PERCENT RIGHT." SULTAN
SAID, "WE HOPE ALL IS NOT LOST AND THAT THE U.S.
CONGRESS WILL RECONSIDER ITS STAND." HE ADDED,
"BY THE WAY, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN ANOTHER AREA
WHERE WE COULD HAVE COOPERATED VERY QUIETLY WITH
YOU TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED RESULTS, NAMELY, A
COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD HAVE SMOOTHED THE RUFFLED
FEATHERS OF OUR AROUSED MUTUAL FRIEND TURKEY. WE
WITH YOU HAD ASKED."
AKINS UNQTE INGERSOLL

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